



the National Party increasingly equipping themselves with legal devices that threatened the rights of individuals, including banning orders, house arrests, and extended rights to imprison suspects, often without evidence or trial. In the 1950s, laws like the 1949 Mixed Marriages Act and 1953 Bantu Education Act continued to grow the barrier between whites and blacks in South Africa. As a result of these acts and many others, South Africa was segregated:

Socially: blacks began to be denied use of certain amenities, white beaches, and transport. They were also forbidden from marrying or having sexual relations with white people.

Geographically: due to the pass laws, blacks were forbidden from freely accessing urban areas.

Economically: blacks were limited to labour-intensive work and were paid very little for work in industries like mining and farming, or as servants in white households.

Education: black children were taught a very limited syllabus, limited to the skills they would need in labour-intensive jobs.

As time went on, anti-apartheid came to be characterised, not just by sympathy and understanding, but by an identification with the cause - a wholehearted expression of solidarity with the aspirations of African Nationalism (Skinner, 2009, p.405). It became clear to the British people that even though South Africa was still a British colony until 1960, injustice remained. Opposition to apartheid in Britain became gradually stronger and more widespread, and by the 1960s they were able to stage several high-profile acts of opposition. These included boycotts, like the campaign to boycott South African products in Britain in mid-1959, lobbying the government to block arms sales to South Africa up to 1964, and protests in response to atrocities like the Sharpeville Massacre in 1960. Significantly, much of this opposition was supported by, instigated by or even led by African and South African activists, confirming solidarity of the British people with those in South Africa against apartheid.

Despite the reluctant implementation of this change to satisfy world opinion and the UN, it demonstrated how the Government's policy could be influenced by public pressure. This is significant due to the importance of British shipments, as Britain was the main trade partner of South Africa at the time. The AAM's combination of public protest, quiet lobbying, and cooperation with other anti-apartheid groups was therefore vindicated, proving the groups' vital role in restricting weapon shipments to South Africa and helping to stop more atrocities like the Sharpeville Massacre.

After 1964, the Anti-Apartheid Movement expanded its ambition to cover both sports and entertainment in what they described as a "cultural boycott". In the first half of the 1960s, this concept was only in its infancy, but Barbara Castle and the other leaders in the AAM were ambitious in implementing this in the future. They began by distributing special leaflets to the supporters of sports teams which were touring South Africa, like the Welsh Rugby Union and Arsenal Football Club, with the aim of educating them about apartheid and "pointing out" to them that they were supporting the apartheid system. Standard methods of education and lobbying the Minister for Sport were used to create a base of support from which they could more effectively oppose apartheid in the cultural sphere. In terms of entertainment, many overseas artists which were invited to tour South Africa were instead asked not to tour under apartheid conditions by the AAM, who proposed that they instead assist the AAM with matters like fund-raising. This initiative against apartheid shows that methods taken were developing and evolving to oppose apartheid and affect the South African government in as many areas as possible to try to force real change.

One of the key activists in this early period was Barbara Castle, who played a key role in lobbying the British Government and planning protests on behalf of the AAM. It was her efforts inside the House of Commons, alongside other Labour politicians like Patrick Gordon Walker who kept the pressure on the Government to respond appropriately to the arms embargo, making them largely responsible for the eventual success of the embargo. Castle's prominent role in organizing also means that she had an instrumental role in determining and directing the overall successes of the AAM, enabling it to continue to work to unite peoples from across the globe against apartheid in South Africa.



As President of the Anti-Apartheid Movement from 1962 to 1964, Barbara Castle became one of the main organisers of its activities, especially regarding the contents of this panel. In this video, she talks about the planning that went into the 48-hour silent demonstration outside the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference at Lancaster House in March 1961, designed to attract maximum news coverage and publicly removing South Africa from the Commonwealth.

arms sales to South Africa. In November 1963, AAM launched a new campaign against South Africa's arms supply as part of its 'Anti-Apartheid Month', starting with a march through London on 3rd November. This poster shows a tank, which would eventually be banned due to its use as a weapon of repression.



One of the AAM's main aims in its early years was the end of Britain's arms shipments to South Africa following continued apartheid and the horrors of the Sharpeville Massacre. To bring about this change, the AAM used several tactics, including protests, private lobbying, propaganda and collaboration with the United Nations, the ANC and other anti-apartheid organisations. Initially, the AAM had to rely on political lobbying rather than direct action by large numbers of people, although by June 1963, there was a mass rally in Trafalgar Square attended by 3,000 people under the banner 'No Arms for Verwoerd' (Verwoerd was the Prime Minister of South Africa at the time).

This proves that support for the AAM grew exponentially over time, making it a significant movement with widespread support that could bring about change.

As time passed and the influence of the AAM increased, largely due to their efforts in educating the public, the British Government finally began to relent. While the shipment of weapons for external defence, like ships, aircraft and naval ammunition continued, the export of items like small arms, tanks and armoured vehicles became banned due to their likely use for repressing internal disorder. This showed an important change in thought regarding how weapons were being used, and it was an appreciation that military force and repression in apartheid were being condemned by the rest of the world. The methods used by the AAM were, therefore, effective even in its early years.



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